(b) if so. the details thereof, alongwith the nature of proposed universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Subject to availability of resources, it is proposed to establish new Central Universities and to develop existing Universities to world standards. The Eleventh Plan is yet to be finalized.

Hindi as an employment-oriented language

†186. SHRl UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start vocational courses at college level to make Hindi an employment-oriented language; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While the Government is not considering any such proposal, some of the Universities, like University of Delhi and its colleges, are running a number of employment-oriented courses and programmes in the Hindi medium.

Shortage of teaching staff in Universities

†187. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of teaching staff in universities under the University Grants Commission;

(b) the number of such teaching staff in these universities who do not possess M.Phil or Ph.D. degree; and

(c) the efforts being made to keep intact the teaching quality of these universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Centralized data is not maintained.

(c) The University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory body, has been given the mandate of co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. Besides Career Advancement Scheme for University and College teachers, incentives by way of advance increments for those who hold Ph.D and M.Phil degree at the time of recruitment as Lecturers are provided as per UGC Notification on Revision of Pay Scales, Minimum Qualification for Appointments of Teachers in Universities, Colleges & Other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards, 1998. In order to meet the shortage of teachers, which adversely affects the standards of education. Government has issued orders in March, 2007, raising the age of superannuation of teachers in Centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, from 62 years to 65 years.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi